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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 0499
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3776
RHMFIUU/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/TSA HQ WASHINGTON DC
RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 1134

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000079

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/ANP - DAN RICCI
HOMELAND SECURITY FOR TSA HQ, INT'L PROGRAMS, TSA-1, TSA-7
TSA HQ WASHINGTON DC FOR INT'L PROGRAMS, TSA-1, TSA-7

SIPDIS
SYDNEY FOR TSA REP PENNY ANDERSON

E.O. 12985: N/A
TAGS: EAIR ECON ASEC PTER OTRA NZ
SUBJECT: COOK ISLANDS COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR PENNY ANDERSON,
FEBRUARY 5-10, 2007

REF: SYDNEY 015

¶1. (SBU) Embassy welcomes and grants country clearance to Sydney
TSA Representative Penny J. Anderson, to travel to Rarotonga, Cook

SIPDIS
Islands, from February 5 - 10, 2007. The purpose of this visit is
to conduct meetings and accompany TSA Specialists planning to visit
Rarotonga International Airport.

¶2. (SBU) Embassy point of contact is Economic Officer Tom Walsh.
Contact details are as follows:

Office: 644-462-6182
Fax: 644-472-3537
Cell: 027-446-4467
E-mail: WalshTJ@state.gov

Cook Islands points of contacts are as follows:

Aukino Tairea
Secretary of Transport and Deputy Director of Civil Aviation

SIPDIS
Cook Islands ministry of Transport
transport@oyster.net.ck

GP (Pira) Wichman
Commissioner
Ministry of Police Cook Islands
National Headquarters
PO Box 101
Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Ph (682)22499, Fax (682)21499

Joseph Ngamata
Chief Executive
Airport Authority
PO Box 90
Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Ph (682)25890, Fax (682)25980
jngamata@airport.gov.ck

Security Assessment

¶3. (SBU) The Cook Islands is a Parliamentary democracy in free association with New Zealand, on which they rely for defense and assistance in meeting low-level security threats. The Embassy is not aware of any specific threats to U.S. facilities or personnel at this time in the Cook Islands. However, in light of the worldwide security alert all visitors should heighten their security awareness and report any unusual incidents to the Regional Security Office at the Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand (telephone (64)(4)462-6000, 24 hours/day).

¶4. (SBU) Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S. and the 2002 and 2005 terrorist bombings in Bali, there has been concern that terrorists might seek to take advantage of the low level of security maintained in small island states such as the Cook Islands in order to target tourists in previously safe destinations. New Zealand has worked with the Cook Islands to improve airport security in response to this possibility.

¶5. (U) As a result of recent military action in Iraq, there is a potential for retaliatory actions to be taken against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. Public demonstrations carry the potential for precipitating violence directed at American citizens.

¶6. (SBU) U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert and some have drawn down their dependents and/or personnel. These facilities may temporarily close or suspend public services from time to time for security reasons. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to American citizens. Monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest American Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

¶7. (U) Crime: Appropriate common sense precautions should be taken, especially at night, to avoid becoming a target of opportunity.

¶8. (U) Weather: Severe cyclones present a threat during the hurricane season; however, this is generally only from November to March.

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